

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EB/ISM:SCHAAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199741

FOR SEEETWOOD

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 13713, ACTION SECSTATE INFO KINSHASA
LONDON PARIS LUBUMBASHI 13 JULY:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 13713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EFIN, CG, BE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF KOLWEZI MINES

REF: LUBUMBASHI 0818

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN)
TOLD US JULY 12 THAT GECAMINES' KOLWEZI FACILITIES ARE
PRESENTLY OPERATING AT 50-60 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. HE
THOUGHT THIS WAS QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT SINCE FACILITIES
WERE BEING RUN LARGELY BY THE ZAIRIAN TECHNICIANS IN
KOLWEZI, WITH TWELVE BELGIAN TECHNICIANS FLYING IN
EVERY DAY FROM LUBUMBASHI. USING THE ANALOGY OF THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE AND BEING
CONFRONTED WITH TASK OF REPAIRING ONE AFTER A BREAKDOWN,
JAENEN SAID THAT THIS PRESENT SYSTEM USING ONLY ZAIRIAN
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TECHNICIANS PLUS THE TWELVE BELGIANS COULD GO ON
SATISFACTORILY SO LONG AS THERE WERE NOT A BREAKDOWN IN
THE COMPLICATED MINING MACHINERY.

2. JAENEN SAID HE SAW NO INDICATIONS THAT GOZ HAS MADE
ANY MOVE TO INVITE THE EXPATRIATE BELGIAN EXPERTS TO
RETURN TO KOLWEZI.

3. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH SOCIETE GENERALE DES
MINERAIS ON JULY 17, FROM WHICH WE HOPE TO ACQUIRE FURTHER
DETAILS ON THE BELGIAN EXPATRIATE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION.
DE TARR UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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